

Eight members of the crew died when the plane crashed. Mr. Thibault was blown out of the plane onto the runway and ran into the jungle. He was later rescued by Navy troops and brought to a Naval hospital. Mr. Thibault had second and third degree burns on his arms, back, and face. During the first few weeks that he was in the hospital, doctors did not know if he would survive. After he returned home to the states, it took Mr. Thibault about a year to recover from the injuries he received in the plane crash.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Mr. Thibault received other awards for his service to his country in World War II, including the Air Medal with Clusters, the Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign/Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbons with three Battle Stars and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take a moment to join me in honoring Leopold Thibault for his patriotism, bravery, and courage while defending our great country.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come here today to offer my condolences and prayers to the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. As I was walking here just a few moments ago, I stopped to speak to a retired Capitol Hill Police Officer. As we were discussing last week's tragic shooting, he said to me, "It could have been one of us." In many ways, I think that characterizes the mood on Capitol Hill right now. Many of us feel vulnerable today because, indeed, it could have been one of us.

The greatest gift one human being can give another is his life. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice not because they sought to be heroes, but because that was the type of men they were. In a moment of intense fear, of extreme panic that I pray most Americans will never know, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson stood tall. They laid their lives down so that others would not have to.

Sadly, in my community on Staten Island, there is another hero in need of our prayers. Police Officer Gerard Carter is lying in a hospital bed right now with a bullet lodged in his brain. He is holding onto life with the faintest of grips, struggling to survive after being shot in the right temple two nights ago by a 17-year old, two-time murderer. Police Officer Carter was truly one of New York's Finest, a brave young man who stared danger in the face and sought to make a difference.

Sometimes we may forget the danger that our law enforcement officers face when they put on their uniforms, clip on their badges and take to the streets. They put themselves in harm's way so that we may be safe. I offer them our thanks, and to the families of Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson and Police Officer Carter, I offer you our prayers.

TRIBUTE TO MEEK STALLING

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to tell my colleagues about a proud American and a beloved Milwaukeean: Meek Gladney Stalling.

Meek Stalling was born on June 20, 1921. On that same day, in 1782, our nation chose the eagle as its symbol. Those who knew and loved Mr. Stalling will tell you that he had a lot in common with our national symbol.

Like the eagles that grace our nation's skies, Meek Stalling loved to fly. A year before Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a Tuskegee Airman. Like other members of this historic unit, Mr. Stalling fought two wars; a life and death battle against the most formidable air force in Europe, and a moral struggle against racial prejudice at home. Meek Stalling served proudly through it all, and at the end of the war, he returned home with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Stalling's passion for flight continued in civilian life, as an active member of the Circle Masters Flying Club, the Milwaukee Public Schools Aviation Program, and the Jackie Robinson Aviation Program. He was also an accomplished airplane model builder, and his vigorous support for aviation won the recognition of NASA's Apollo Program and earned him the opportunity to accompany Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Group, during the Persian Gulf War.

Meek Stalling, like our nation's symbol, also represented some of America's best qualities. As a World War II veteran, he demonstrated the strength and passion for freedom that have always been our country's hallmarks, and as a pioneer in the desegregation of America's armed services, he envisioned a future where patriotism, not race, was an American soldier's guide.

Mr. Stalling also shared our country's firm foundation in faith. As a young man, he joined St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Duluth, Minnesota. When he moved to Milwaukee, in 1956, Mr. Stalling joined our community's St. Mark A.M.E. Church and began a long and distinguished service. He was a talented carpenter and volunteered his skills to ensure that the church buildings were always in good repair. He was one of St. Mark's oldest living Trustees.

Two of our nation's core values, family and community, were also central commitments for Meek Stalling. He loved Ruby, his wife of 42 years, deeply, and rejoiced with her in their son, Charles. Mr. Stalling was also an active community volunteer, serving as a Scoutmaster, a leader in several aviation related organizations, and as the unofficial sporting goods repair guru for the neighborhood's children.

Mr. Speaker, Meek Stalling passed away, this week. Though our community is diminished by his loss, I ask that my colleagues join me, his family, and friends, in celebrating the remarkable life of this man who truly symbolized America at its best.

DR. LUCILLE BANKS ROBINSON
MILLER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mark the passing of Dr. Lucille Banks Robinson Miller.

Dr. Miller was born in the District of Columbia. She was the eldest of six daughters born to Deacon Edward Lewis and Deaconess Mary Lewis of the Metropolitan Baptist Church. As an adult, Dr. Miller became affiliated with Corinthian Baptist Church. Most recently, she was a member of the New Bethel Baptist Church. She was the devoted mother of three sons: Dr. Thomas Tipton, Arthur Robinson and Reginald Robinson.

Dr. Miller graduated from Armstrong Senior High School, the Just Nursing School, and Jennifer Business College. She also attended Howard University, where she majored in music and minored in psychology. Dr. Miller received an Honorary Doctorate from Virginia Seminary and College in 1983, and an Honorary Doctorate from the Washington Saturday College in 1996.

With a deep love for gospel music, she formed the Banks Seminary Choir in 1937. That group rapidly became one of the most successful youth choirs in the Washington area. Following this success, Dr. Miller founded the Paramount School of Music, one of the largest private schools in the area. She taught music for 38 years.

As she gained popularity among churches and ministers in the Washington area, Dr. Miller was called upon to be the Mistress of Ceremonies at area churches and for major gospel events. During this time she established friendships with renowned gospel artists of her time, including Mahalia Jackson, James Cleveland, Roberta Martin, Richard Smallwood, Donald Vails, and a host of others. She also held regular Sunday vesper services at various churches from the late 1950's to the 1970's.

Known for her colorful and inspirational style, Dr. Miller became a legend in her own time. It was this same personal style that led her to become Washington's premier gospel music radio personality. She started her radio career at Station WOOK. She also worked at WUST and WOL radio stations. In 1979, she joined the WYCB Family. Her radio career continued for more than 45 years. The spirit of Dr. Miller's WYCB programs—"The Early Dawn of Gospel Sound" and "The Hour of Love and Power"—radiated a family warmth. Her never-ending concern for senior citizens, youth and the religious community was always apparent.

During her career, Dr. Miller received over 600 awards and commendations and was received in an audience with Pope John Paul II at Vatican City in Rome, Italy. Two of her most cherished awards were her induction into the Thomas Dorsey Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1996 and her induction into the Eta Beta Sorority Hall of Fame in 1996.

Her passion for helping others will always be remembered. She made sure that the children of her listeners had tuition and clothes for school, that families in need of food and shelter were provided for, and that the needs of